

BLONDIE



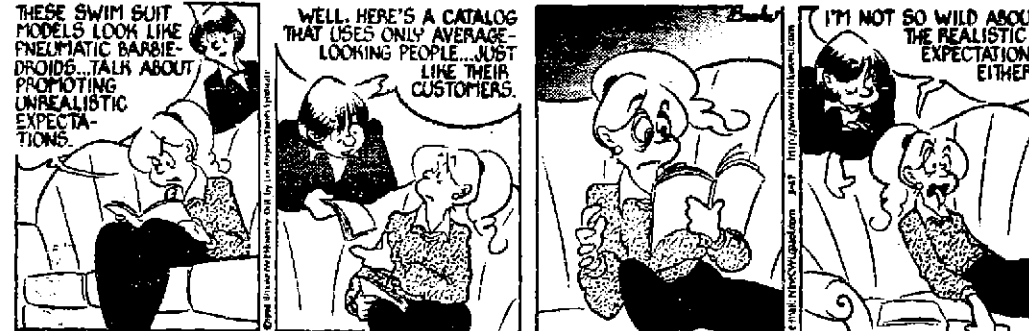
SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING UNDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



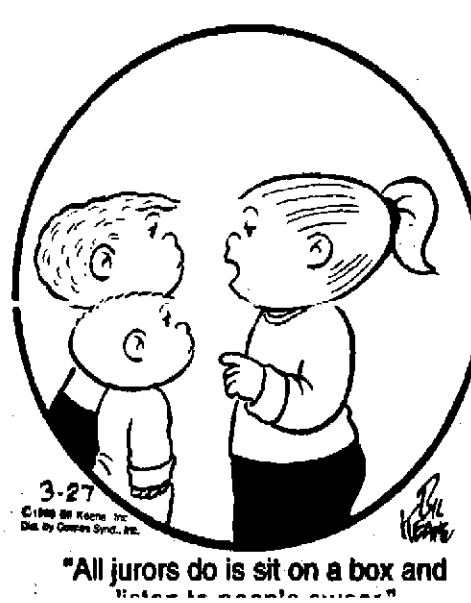
DILBERT



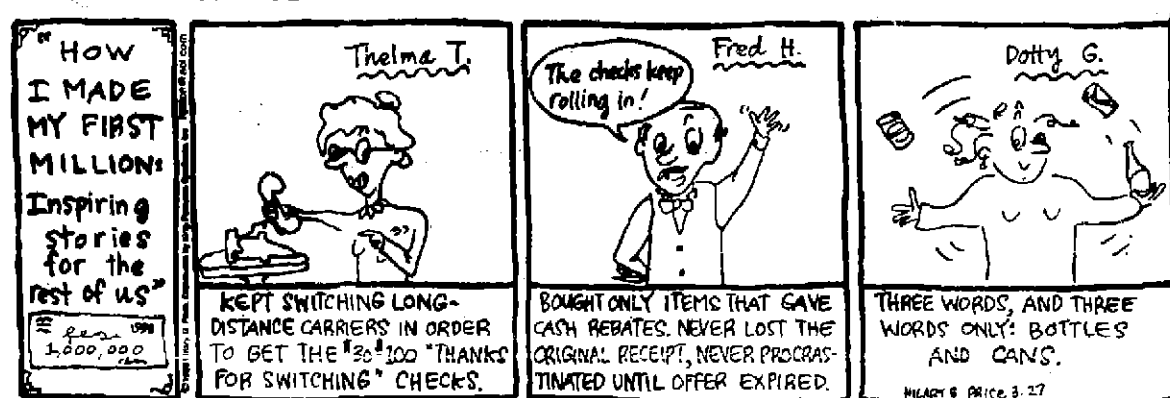
DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Former Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance is 81. Dance company director Arthur Mitchell is 84. Actor Julian Glover is 63. Actor Austin Pendleton is 63. Actor Michael York is 56. Rock musician Tony Banks (Genesis) is 48. Rock musician Andrew Farries (INXS) is 39. Rock musician Derrick McKenzie is 34. Singer Mariah Carey is 28. Rock musician Brendan Hill (Blues Traveler) is 28. Actress Emily Ann Lloyd is 15.

I NEED HELP



The downside of dating a court reporter.

SCRABBLE

PAR SCORE 110-120
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 3/27/98 © 1998 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

PACK 1: R, S, M, A, E, N, R

PACK 2: F, C, S, F, E, O, D

PACK 3: R, P, S, E, O, L, R

PACK 4: M, L, Y, D, T, L, H

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

Members of NATO

P P M J D H E B Y V T Q O L I
G B Y D N A L E C I M W T G
R P M K I F A D B Y U W U S R
Q O M K I G F L D I B Z X W U
U S G O U K O Y G N L J H F O
D N E T H E R L A N D S C N B
A G R E E C E A Y D E W V I M
T O M S Q B P T M N A L K A E
F I A K F E C I S N Z N Y T X
E C N A R F T U R K E Y A S U
W V Y A W R O N U S R D Q C L

Thursday's unlisted clue: GREEN

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Friday's unlisted clue hint: Borders France & Portugal

Belgium France Italy Portugal
Canada Germany Luxembourg Turkey
Denmark Greece Netherlands USA
England Iceland Norway

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Saturday, March 28, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're blissfully at peace, resting and relaxing in the company of family and friends. Later in the day, you get the urge to do something different.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Sort out your thoughts before expressing yourself. Although your ideas are wonderful, not everyone will understand what you have to say.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Don't let yourself be forced into choosing sides. If you do, you'll only wind up on the outs with both parties.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You flit from task to task, completing each one with ease. When you're done, your home fairly shines.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You feel the need to primp and preen. However, your purchases don't have to be expensive. Stick to classics that can be worn no matter what the trends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You're resigned to all the work you have to do. Happily, your mate is in a cooperative mood and makes the time easier.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You're called upon out of the blue to help a loved one. Put aside whatever you had planned.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your mind is on nothing but leisure activities. Spend some time tending to a long-neglected hobby.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You're floundering a bit in a romantic relationship. You need to get your priorities straight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You're not afraid to embrace the "sameness" of your routine. In fact, you take pleasure in it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You cling stubbornly to one fixed idea. In the process, you're missing out on something new and exciting.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Early in the day, time spent with children is satisfying. As time wears on, you run out of patience.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

The Encyclopedia of Bridge defines a safety play as the play of a suit to cope with an unfavorable break, thus minimizing the danger of losing the contract. Today's South believed he made a safety play in his trump suit; however, he had it backward. Instead of minimizing the danger of losing the contract, he was risking his contract for the possible gain of an overtrick. South ruffed the third heart and executed his version of a trump safety play. He cashed his trump king and led another trump to dummy's ace. When East discarded, South had deep problems. Hoping to discard two of his low diamonds, South tried to run the clubs. Unluckily, West ruffed the second club and exited with his last trump, cutting South's communication with dummy. Eventually South had to lose two diamond tricks, and the game went two down. Had East held the trump stack instead of West, South's safety play would have succeeded, but only to ensure an overtrick. The true safety play to save the contract requires a different approach. To guard against either opponent's holding four trumps, South should cash both his king and queen of trumps after ruffing the third heart. When East discards to reveal the bad break, South starts the clubs. West can ruff whenever he wishes, but South keeps control. He wins West's exit and leads a trump to dummy's ace to cash whatever clubs remain, and the defenders win only three tricks.

NORTH 03-57-A
♠ A 5 4
♥ K 8 3
♦ 7 6 4
♣ A K 10 9

WEST
♠ J 9 8 6
♥ Q J 9 4
♦ Q 10 9 8
♣ 3

EAST
♠ 7
♥ A 10 6 2
♦ J 2
♣ 8 7 6 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 3 2
♥ 7 5
♦ A K 5 3
♣ Q J

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: South

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Heart queen

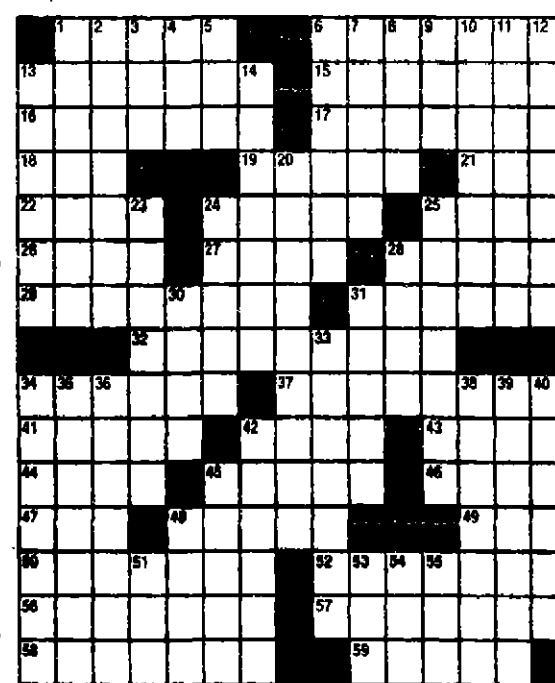
N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0213

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mount
6 Pie-eyed
13 Circulation, in a way
15 Dealer's deal
16 Ripple
17 Boneless cuts
18 Japanese novelist Kobo
19 French peers
21 Heyerdahl raft
22 Vera's TV husband
24 Buckles
25 "5,000 Nights at the Opera" author
26 Niels Bohr, e.g.
- 27 — de la Société
28 Enticed
29 She had a reputation for being fast
31 Scars off
32 It's less filling
34 They take turns
37 Relative of baggetaway
41 Like mutton
42 Gowned contemporary
43 Start of a whaler's cry
44 Sparks et al.
46 Menial
48 — fit (blew up)
49 Dr. of rap
- 48 Honorary Shawnee
49 Hwys.
50 Tax base
52 Crush
56 Without her, Theseus didn't have a clue
57 More piquant
58 More than many
59 Fell off
- DOWN**
- 1 Craft
2 Athens eatery
3 Suffix on fruit names
4 React to pectin
5 Afore
6 Deep-sixes
7 Posts
9 Wall St. whizzes
9 Pilot's heading
10 Certain outing
11 Mother of Richard I
12 Drafts
13 Country in 1994 headlines
14 Huger-muggery
20 Site of Central Park concerts
23 Pittsburgh philanthropist
24 Museum
25 Affiance

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

WAWA BLAB JUDGE
ALEX RIMA JONIN
ISLE OMEN SINGE
FOLLOWING PHOTO
1ST LEN
REGALE GRAD MAC
ALONE SUEZ EARL
BEFOREWYEANDZEE
INON LAUD AGENT
OAR LIMP ADESTE
JAY ALI
DETWEENLAANDDA
AIRIAY CLETS AIRIAM
BOUTTE BACH ROLLE
SYRER AREA APEX



Puzzle by Jim Page

- 22 Smirk's cousin
23 Leads's river
31 Shill
33 Saint-Léon works
34 François Villon offering
36 Like many pitches
36 Current phenomenon
38 Sick fellow
38 Burdened
- 40 Knockout, in boxing slang
43 Relax
46 Marion of "Bewitched"
48 Benedictine scholar
51 "An, Wilderness!" character
53 Green
54 Where the C.S.A. was formed
55 Map abbr.

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone. 1-900-420-5656 (75¢ per minute).

best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-866-7-ACROSS.